

From: [Nicholas Campanella](#)
To: [Bird, Patrick](#)
Subject: Re: Medrecycler
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:55:47 PM

Patrick

Hope all is well with you, and I want to thank you and your team for all your assistance and guidance. We have received our air permit from DEM and wanted to pick your brain on some other items and get your opinion. Please let me know if you have anytime this week for a quick call with my engineer and myself and if you could provide a few dates and times you have available

On Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 3:25 PM Bird, Patrick <Bird.Patrick@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Ruth,

We have been coordinating with you regarding Medrecycler's proposed medical waste pyrolysis unit in West Warwick and the applicability of 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Ec, Standards of Performance for Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators (Subpart Ec). We have reviewed the attached: process description, block diagram, permit application, and the Medrecycler response to our questions about the pyrolysis heater.

Subpart Ec regulates hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators. Section 60.50c(f) excludes pyrolysis units as defined in Section 60.51c. Pyrolysis is defined in Subpart Ec to mean the endothermic gasification of hospital waste and/or medical/infectious waste using external energy. Based on our review of the information provided, and because the pyrolysis reactors will feed medical waste material in an endothermic process using external energy, in the absence of oxygen, the pyrolysis reactors are excluded from being regulated under Subpart Ec.

Medrecycler's proposed process also includes combustion units, specifically, a heater/furnace (also referred to as a vitrifier) used to provide external heat to the pyrolysis reactor, and a stationary engine. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) non-hazardous secondary material (NHSM) rulemakings identify criteria for determining which NHSMs are, or are not, solid wastes when used as fuels or ingredients in combustion units. Units combusting NHSMs that are solid waste are subject to the solid waste combustion requirements of section 129 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), e.g., Subpart Ec. Units combusting NHSM found to be a non-waste would not be subject to federal solid waste combustion requirements, however they may be subject to other CAA standards, such as New Source Performance Standards promulgated under section 111 or National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants promulgated under section 112.

The steps involved in making a determination for a given NHSM are codified at 40 CFR part 241. Any NHSM derived from the medical waste (e.g., tars, residues, and syngas) that are combusted in the heater/furnace or the stationary engine need to comply with the criteria in Part 241 to ensure an appropriate waste/non-waste determination and to determine appropriate CAA rule applicability.

There are three general routes to determine whether a NHSM is a waste or a non-waste:

1. Site-specific “self-determination” requirements under 40 CFR 241.3(b)

A combustion source may make a waste or non-waste determination for the NHSM used as fuel managed within their control (241.3(b)(1)); or for ingredients (241.3(b)(3)); or for fuel or ingredient products produced from processed discarded NHSM (241.3(b)(4)).

2. Petitions under 40 CFR 241.3(c)

Persons may petition for a non-waste determination from the Regional Administrator for a material used as a fuel that has not been discarded and is not managed within control of the generator.

3. Categorical non-waste determinations under 40 CFR 241.4

Materials that are listed in 40 CFR 241.4(a) have been determined to be non-waste materials by the Administrator, so do not need to conduct a site-specific determination for these materials. A source may petition the Administrator for a categorical non-waste determination under 40 CFR 241.4(b) for materials that are not currently listed.

If you have any questions about CAA requirements, please contact Susan Lancey at 617-918-1656. If you have any questions about NHSM requirements, please contact Liz McCarthy at 617-918-1447.

Thank you,

Patrick Bird

Patrick Bird

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